Opt performance

This documents summarizes the main observations about the performance of the implementation of the Regularized Multinomial Regression in mtool. This implementation uses a Stochastic Variance Reduced Gradient (SVRG) algorithm in order to solve the proximal operator.

1 Generative Data Model ——

Data are simulated from a K=2 competing risks proportional hazards model. The cause-specific hazard for cause $k\in\{1,2\}$ for individual i with covariates X_i is $\lambda_k(t|X_i)=\lambda_{0k}(t)\exp(X_i^T\beta_k)$. The baseline hazards $\lambda_{0k}(t)$ follow a Weibull distribution $\lambda_{0k}(t)=h_k\gamma_k t^{\gamma_k-1}$, with parameters $(h_1,\gamma_1)=(0.55,1.5)$ and $(h_2,\gamma_2)=(0.05,1.5)$, implying increasing baseline hazards, higher for cause 1.

The coefficient vectors $\beta_1, \beta_2 \in \mathbb{R}^p$ are sparse. Only the first 10 covariates X_1, \ldots, X_{10} have non-zero effects: $\beta_{1j} = +1$ and $\beta_{2j} = -1$ for $j = 1, \ldots, 10$, with all other $\beta_{kj} = 0$. These covariates increase $\lambda_1(t|X_i)$ and decrease $\lambda_2(t|X_i)$.

Event times T_i and causes C_i are generated by simulating potential failure times T_{ik} from $\lambda_k(t|X_i)$ and setting $T_i = \min(T_{i1}, T_{i2})$ with C_i being the index yielding the minimum. Independent censoring times $T_{cens,i}$ (rate 0.25) are generated. Observed data consist of ($ftime_i$, $fstatus_i$), where $ftime_i = \min(T_i, T_{cens,i})$ and the status $fstatus_i = C_i \cdot \mathbb{1}(T_i \leq T_{cens,i})$ (with $fstatus_i = 0$ indicating censoring).

```
#' Create the case-base sampled dataset
# '
#'@param surv obj
#' @param cov matrix
#'@param ratio
#' @return List of 4 elements, containing the necessary data to fit a case-base
#' regression model.
create_cbDataset <- function(surv_obj, cov_matrix, ratio = 5) {</pre>
 n <- nrow(surv obj)</pre>
 B <- sum(surv_obj[, "time"])</pre>
 c1 <- sum(surv_obj[, "status"] == 1)
 c2 <- sum(surv_obj[, "status"] == 2)</pre>
 b <- ratio * (c1)
 offset <- log(B/b)
 prob_select <- surv_obj[, "time"]/B</pre>
 # Create base series
```

```
which_pm <- sample(n, b, replace = TRUE, prob = prob_select)</pre>
 bSeries <- as.matrix(surv obj[which pm, ])
 time_bseries <- runif(b) * bSeries[, "time"]</pre>
 cov bseries <- cov matrix[which pm, , drop = FALSE]</pre>
 event_bseries <- rep(0L, nrow(bSeries))
 # Extract case series
 cSeries <- as.matrix(surv_obj[surv_obj[, "status"] != 0L, ])
 time_cseries <- cSeries[,"time"]</pre>
 cov_cseries <- cov_matrix[surv_obj[,"status"] != 0L, , drop = FALSE]</pre>
 event cseries <- cSeries[,"status"]</pre>
 # Combine and return
 output <- list("time" = c(time_bseries, time_cseries),</pre>
           "event ind" = c(event bseries, event cseries),
           "covariates" = rbind(cov bseries, cov cseries),
           "offset" = rep(offset, nrow(bSeries) + nrow(cSeries)))
 return(output)
weibull hazard <- Vectorize(function(gamma, lambda, t) {</pre>
 return(gamma * lambda * t^(gamma - 1))
})
cause hazards sim <- function(p, n, beta1, beta2,</pre>
                   nblocks = 4, cor_vals = c(0.7, 0.4, 0.6, 0.5),
                   num. true = 20, h1 = 0.55, h2 = 0.10,
                   gamma1 = 100, gamma2 = 100, max time = 1.5,
                   noise_cor = 0.1,
                   rate_cens = 0.05, min_time = 0.002,
                   exchangeable = FALSE) {
 # Warnings
 if(length(beta1) != length(beta2)) stop("Dimension of beta1 and beta2 should be the same")
 if(nblocks != length(cor_vals)) stop("Dim of nblocks and corr for blocks should match")
 if(isTRUE(exchangeable)) {
  # Create an empty matrix
  mat <- matrix(noise_cor, nrow = p, ncol = p)</pre>
  # Set the correlation values
  cor exchangeable <- 0.5
  # Set the upper triangular and lower triangular parts
  mat[1:num.true, 1:num.true] <- cor_exchangeable</pre>
  # Print the matrix
  diag(mat) <- rep(1, length(diag(mat)))</pre>
  X \leftarrow mvtnorm::rmvnorm(n, mean = rep(0, p), sigma = mat)
 } else {
  # Set the number of variables per block
  vpb <- num.true/nblocks</pre>
```

```
# Set the correlation values for each covariate block
correlation values <- cor vals
# Initialize empty matrix
correlation_matrix <- matrix(noise_cor, nrow = p, ncol = p)</pre>
# Generate the covariance matrix with block correlations
for (i in 1:nblocks) {
 start index <-(i-1)*vpb+1
 end_index <- i * vpb
 correlation_matrix[start_index:end_index, start_index:end_index] <- correlation_values[</pre>
# Diagonal elements should be 1
diag(correlation_matrix) <- rep(1, length(diag(correlation_matrix)))</pre>
X < -mvtnorm::rmvnorm(n, mean = rep(0, p), sigma = correlation_matrix)
X <- as.matrix(X)</pre>
# Specify rate parameters
lambda1 <- h1 * exp(X %*% beta1)
lambda2 <- h2 * exp(X %*% beta2)
# Define cdf - U
cdf_U <- function(t, gamma1, lambda1, gamma2, lambda2, U) {</pre>
 F min U < -1 - \exp(-(1 \operatorname{ambda1} * t - \operatorname{qamma1} + 1 \operatorname{ambda2} * t - \operatorname{qamma2})) - U
 return(F_min_U)
# Generate uniform values and store in dataframe
u <- stats::runif(n)</pre>
# Inverse transform sampling
dat_roots <- cbind.data.frame(u, gamma1, lambda1, gamma2, lambda2)</pre>
times <- dat_roots %>%
 dplyr::rowwise() %>%
 dplyr::mutate(
  t_tilde = stats::uniroot(
    cdf_U,
    interval = c(.Machine$double.eps,
             max time),
    extendInt = "yes",
    U = u,
    gamma1 = gamma1,
    lambda1 = lambda1,
    gamma2 = gamma2,
    lambda2 = lambda2
   )$`root`
 ) %>%
 dplyr::pull(t_tilde)
# Generate event indicators
hazard1 <- weibull hazard(gamma= gamma1, lambda = lambda1, t = times)
hazard2 <- weibull_hazard(gamma = gamma2, lambda = lambda2, t = times)
event <- stats::rbinom(n = n, size = 1, prob = hazard1 / (hazard1 + hazard2))
c.ind \leftarrow ifelse(event == 1, 1, 2)
```

```
# Add censoring
cens <- stats::rexp(n = n, rate = rate cens)
c.ind <- ifelse(cens < times, ∅, c.ind)</pre>
times <- pmin(cens, times)
# Winsorize time ranges to desired ones to make them more realistic
# and add some white noise
c.ind <- ifelse(times >= max time, ∅, c.ind)
times <- ifelse(times >= max_time, max_time, times)
times[times == max_time] <- times[times == max_time] +</pre>
   rnorm(length(times[times == max time]), mean = 0, sd = 1e-4)
times <- ifelse(times < min_time, min_time, times)</pre>
times[times == min_time] <- times[times == min_time] +</pre>
  abs(rnorm(length(times[times == min_time]), mean = 0, sd = 1e-4))
sim.data <- data.frame(fstatus = c.ind, ftime = times)</pre>
X <- as.data.frame(X)</pre>
colnames(X) <- paste0("X", seq_len(p))</pre>
sim.data <- as.data.frame(cbind(sim.data, X))</pre>
return(sim.data)
gen data <- function(n, p) {</pre>
    num true <- 20
    beta1 <- c(rep(0, p))
    beta2 <- c(rep(0, p))
    nu ind <- seq(num true)</pre>
    # Here out of 20 predictors, 10 should be non-zero
    beta1[nu_ind] <- c(rep(1, 10), rep(0, 10))
    beta2[nu_ind] <- c(rep(-1, 10), rep(0, 10))
    # Simulate data
    sim.data <- cause_hazards_sim(n = n, p = p,</pre>
                         beta1 = beta1, beta2 = beta2,
                         rate cens = 0.25,
                         h1 = 0.55, h2 = 0.05,
                         gamma1 = 1.5, gamma2 = 1.5,
                         exchangeable = TRUE)
    cen.prop <- c(prop.table(table(sim.data$fstatus)), 0, 0, 0, 0,
    # Training-test split
    # We only do this (instead of generating datasets for train and test
    # like Anthony mentioned because it is faster computationally
    # as casebase resamples) + proportion of censoring can be quite random
    # in each run of the simulation so we want to maintain the same in
    # validation and test set
    train.index <- caret::createDataPartition(sim.data$fstatus, p = 0.75, list = FALSE)
```

```
train <- sim.data[train.index,]
test <- sim.data[-train.index,]</pre>
# We have two competitor models for variable selection:
# 1) Independent cox-regression model
# 2) penCR cox regression model - where the lambda penalties are trained together
# Censor competing event
y_train <- Surv(time = train$ftime, event = train$fstatus == 1)</pre>
x_{train} \leftarrow model.matrix(\sim . -ftime -fstatus, data = train)[, -1]
# Censor competing event
y_test <- Surv(time = test$ftime, event = test$fstatus == 1)</pre>
x_{\text{test}} < - \text{model.matrix}(\sim . - \text{ftime -fstatus}, \frac{\text{data}}{\text{data}} = \text{test})[, -1]
# Test set
surv_obj_val <- with(test, Surv(ftime, as.numeric(fstatus), type = "mstate"))</pre>
# Covariance matrix
cov_val <- cbind(test[, c(grepl("X", colnames(test)))], time = log(test$ftime))</pre>
# Case-base dataset
cb_data_val <- create_cbDataset(surv_obj_val, as.matrix(cov_val), ratio = 10)</pre>
return(list(X_train = cb_data_val$covariates,
       Y_train = cb_data_val$event_ind,
       offset = cb_data_val$offset,
       true_beta = cbind(beta1, beta2)))
```

2 Performance Evaluation ——

In order to evaluate the performance of MNlogistic, we assess its convergence time and memory allocated with sample sizes of n = 1000, 2000 and covariates p = 20, 100, 250, 500, 1000, 2000, 4000. The original implementation is compared with an improved implementation MNlogistic2 with the following changes:

- Matrix input U in proximal functions (Flat, Graph, Tree) are directly called using U.memptr()
- String regul in proximal functions (Flat, Graph, Tree) are directly called using std::vector<char>.
- Multinomial gradient functions changed to in-place calculation (takes arma::mat&grad_out, returns void), removing internal allocation.

• Multinomial gradient functions optimized to create column vector from x only once per call.

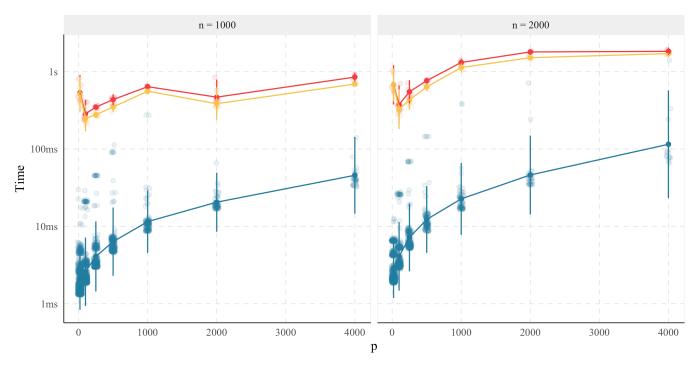
```
if (save){
  results <- bench::press(
     n = c(1000, 2000),
     p = c(20, 100, 250, 500, 1000, 2000, 4000),
     lambda = c(0.9, 0.5, 0.07, 0.005),
        data <- gen_data(n, p)</pre>
        # lambda <- 0.9
        alpha = 0.5
        unpen_cov = 2
        # Elastic-net reparametrization
        lambda1 <- lambda*alpha
        1ambda2 < -0.5*1ambda*(1 - alpha)
        # Prepare covariate matrix with intercept
        set.seed(1234)
        bench::mark(
          MNlogistic = mtool::mtool.MNlogistic(
             X = data$X_train,
             Y = data$Y train,
             offset = data$offset,
             N covariates = 2,
             regularization = 'elastic-net',
             transpose = FALSE,
             lambda1 = lambda1, lambda2 = lambda2,
             1ambda3 = 0
          ),
            MNlogistic2 = mtool::mtool.MNlogistic2(
             X = data$X_train,
             Y = data$Y_train,
             offset = data$offset,
             N covariates = 2,
             regularization = 'elastic-net',
             transpose = FALSE,
             lambda1 = lambda1, lambda2 = lambda2,
             1ambda3 = 0
          ),
          glmnet = glmnet(data$X_train,
                     data$Y train,
                     alpha = alpha,
                     lambda = lambda,
                     family = "multinomial"),
          min_iterations = 1, check = FALSE
     }
  )
```

2.1 Plot results

2.1.1 Time

- #> Warning: `as.tibble()` was deprecated in tibble 2.0.0.
- #> i Please use `as tibble()` instead.
- #> i The signature and semantics have changed, see `?as_tibble`.
- #> Warning: The `fun.y` argument of `stat_summary()` is deprecated as of ggplot2 3.3.0.
 #> i Please use the `fun` argument instead.

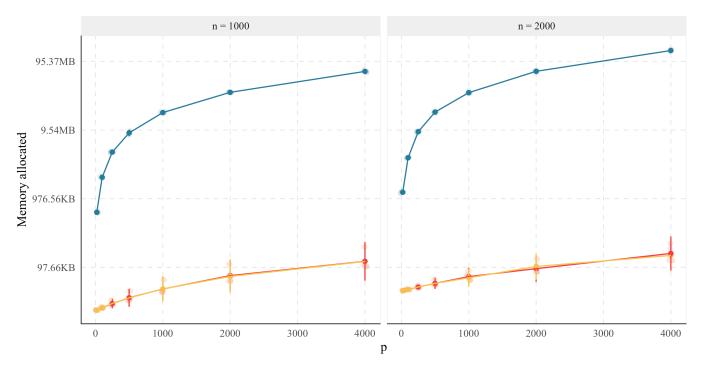




2.1.2 Memory

```
results %>%
   as.tibble() %>%
   ggplot(aes(x = p, y = mem_alloc, group = paste0(expression, p, n),
        colour = as.character(expression))) +
   geom_jitter(alpha = 0.1) +
   stat_summary(geom = "point", fun.y = "mean", alpha = 1) +
   stat_summary(fun.data = mean_sdl, geom = "errorbar", width = 0.1) +
   stat_summary(aes(group = paste0(expression, n)), fun = mean, geom = "line") +
   facet_wrap(~paste0("n = ", n)) +
   labs(x = "p",
        y = "Memory allocated",
        colour = "Implementation")
```





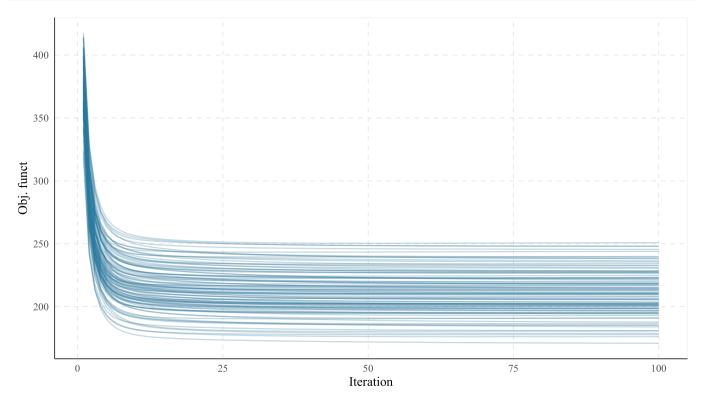
2.2 Optimization Example

```
# Objetive function
objective <- function(B, X, Y, offset,
                lambda, alpha, reg_p) {
  N_prime <- nrow(X)</pre>
  p < -ncol(X)
  K < - ncol(B)
  Y_int <- as.integer(Y)
  Y <- Y_int
  valid_y_indices <- which(Y >= 1 & Y <= K)</pre>
  if (length(valid_y_indices) < N_prime) {</pre>
     if (length(valid_y_indices) == 0) {
        loss_value <- 0.0
        penalty_value <- 0.0
        if (reg_p > 0 \&\& lambda > 0) {
           B_reg <- B[1:reg_p, , drop = FALSE]</pre>
           lambda1 <- lambda * alpha</pre>
           1ambda2 <- 0.5 * 1ambda * (1 - alpha)
           penalty_value <- (lambda1 * sum(abs(B_reg))) + (lambda2 * sum(B_reg^2))</pre>
        return(penalty_value)
```

```
X_filt <- X[valid_y_indices, , drop = FALSE]</pre>
  Y_filt <- Y[valid_y_indices]
  offset_filt <- offset[valid_y_indices]
  N_filt <- length(valid_y_indices)</pre>
} else {
  # Use all data if all Y are valid
  X_filt <- X
  Y_filt <- Y
  offset_filt <- offset
  N_filt <- N_prime
}
# eta = X %*% B + offset (N_filt x K)
eta <- sweep(X_filt %*% B, 1, offset_filt, "+")
# log(1 + sum_k(exp(eta_ik))) for each row i
max_eta_stable <- apply(cbind(0, eta), 1, max) # max of 0 and row max(eta_k)</pre>
log_one_plus_sum_exp <- max_eta_stable + log( exp(-max_eta_stable) + rowSums(exp(sweep(eta_stable)))</pre>
idx_mat <- cbind(seq_len(N_filt), Y_filt)</pre>
eta_yi <- eta[idx_mat]</pre>
# -eta iyi + log(1 + sum k exp(eta ik))
loss_per_obs <- -eta_yi + log_one_plus_sum_exp</pre>
loss_value <- sum(loss_per_obs)</pre>
# Penalty
penalty_value <- 0.0
if (reg_p > 0 && lambda > 0) {
  B_reg <- B[1:reg_p, , drop = FALSE]
  lambda1 <- lambda * alpha
  1ambda2 <- 0.5 * 1ambda * (1 - alpha)
  11_norm <- sum(abs(B_reg))</pre>
  12 norm sq <- sum(B reg^2)
  penalty_value <- (lambda1 * 11_norm) + (lambda2 * 12_norm_sq)</pre>
}
return(loss_value + penalty_value)
```

```
if (save){
set.seed(123)
iter_sim <- tibble()</pre>
for (i in 1) {
n < -1000
p < -20
lambda = c(1e-10)
data <- gen data(n, p)
alpha = 0.5
unpen cov = 2
# Elastic-net reparametrization
lambda1 <- lambda*alpha
lambda2 < -0.5*lambda*(1 - alpha)
MNlogistic3 <- mtool::mtool.MNlogistic3(</pre>
  X = data$X train,
  Y = data$Y train,
  offset = data$offset,
  N covariates = unpen cov,
  regularization = 'elastic-net',
  transpose = FALSE,
  lambda1 = lambda1, lambda2 = lambda2,
  1ambda3 = 0,
  niter inner mtplyr = 2, maxit = 100,
  tolerance = 1e-10
MNlogistic3$coefficients
iter vals <- map dbl(MNlogistic3$coefficientshist, ~
                 objective(matrix(.x,
                            nrow = ncol(data$X train)),
                        data$X_train, data$Y_train, data$offset,
                        lambda, alpha, 20))
iter_sim <- tibble(obj_step = iter_vals,</pre>
    iter = 1:length(iter_vals),
    sim = i) \% > \%
bind_rows(iter_sim)
}
saveRDS(iter_sim, here::here( "notes_jmr", "data", "opt-example.rds"))
}
iter sim <- readRDS(here::here("notes jmr", "data", "opt-example.rds"))</pre>
```

```
iter_sim %>%
   ggplot(aes(iter, y = obj_step, group = sim)) +
   geom_line(alpha = 0.3) +
   # geom_smooth(aes(group = 1)) +
   labs(y = "Obj. funct",
        x = "Iteration")
```



2.2.1 Comparison

```
if (save){
for (i in 1:30) {
    seed <- as.integer(i)

    # take the last five digits of the initial seed
    the_seed = seed %% 100000

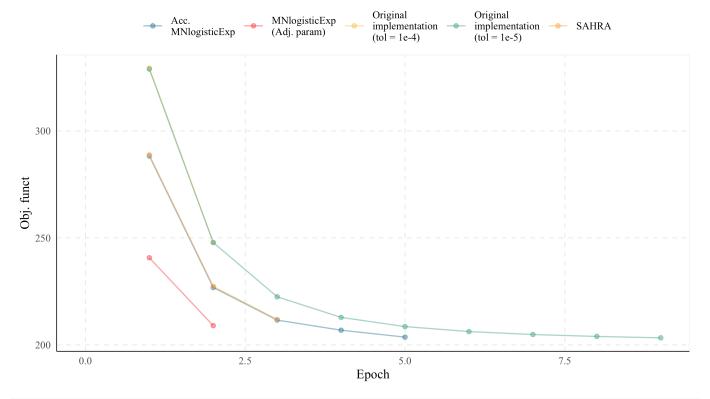
set.seed(the_seed)
    n <- 1000
    p <- 2000
    lambda = c(1e-10)
    data <- gen_data(n, p)
    alpha = 0.5
    unpen_cov = 2
    # Elastic-net reparametrization
    lambda1 <- lambda*alpha</pre>
```

```
lambda2 <- 0.5*lambda*(1 - alpha)
set.seed(the seed)
time <- system.time({MNlogistic <- mtool::mtool.MNlogistic3(</pre>
  X = data$X train,
  Y = data$Y train,
  offset = data$offset,
  N covariates = unpen cov,
  regularization = 'elastic-net',
  transpose = FALSE,
  lambda1 = lambda1, lambda2 = lambda2,
  1ambda3 = 0,
  niter_inner_mtplyr = 7, maxit = 100,
  tolerance = 1e-4
) } )
time tol <- system.time({MNlogistic tol <- mtool::mtool.MNlogistic3(
  X = data$X train,
  Y = data$Y_train,
  offset = data$offset,
  N_covariates = unpen_cov,
  regularization = 'elastic-net',
  transpose = FALSE,
  lambda1 = lambda1, lambda2 = lambda2,
  1ambda3 = 0,
  niter_inner_mtplyr = 7, maxit = 100,
  tolerance = 1e-5
) } )
set.seed(the seed)
timeExp <- system.time({MNlogisticExp <- mtool::mtool.MNlogisticExp(</pre>
  X = data$X_train,
  Y = data$Y_train,
  offset = data$offset,
  N covariates = unpen cov,
  regularization = 'elastic-net',
  transpose = FALSE,
  lambda1 = lambda1, lambda2 = lambda2,
  1ambda3 = 0,
  niter inner mtplyr = 2, maxit = 100,
  tolerance = 1e-4,
  learning rate = 1e-3
) } )
set.seed(the seed)
timeAcc <- system.time({MNlogisticAcc <- mtool::mtool.MNlogisticAcc(</pre>
```

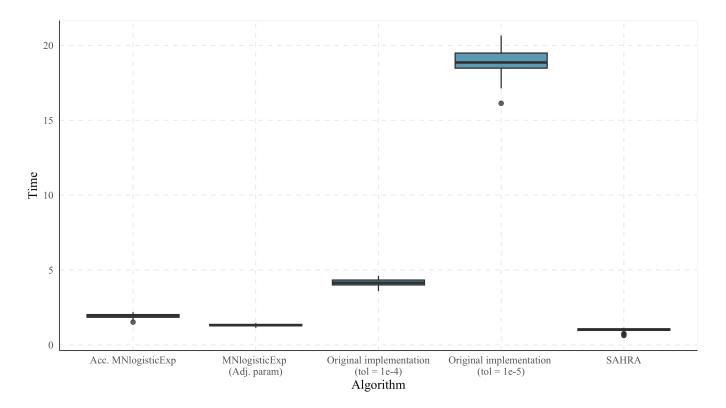
```
X = data$X train,
  Y = data$Y train,
  offset = data$offset,
  N covariates = unpen cov,
  regularization = 'elastic-net',
  transpose = FALSE,
  lambda1 = lambda1, lambda2 = lambda2,
  1ambda3 = 0,
  niter_inner_mtplyr = 1,
  maxit = 50,
  momentum_gamma = .9,
  tolerance = 1e-1,
  learning_rate = 1e-4,
  pos = T
) } )
set.seed(the seed)
timeSAHRA <- system.time({MNlogisticSAHRA <- mtool::mtool.MNlogisticSAHRA(</pre>
  X = data$X train,
  Y = data$Y train,
  offset = data$offset,
  N_covariates = unpen_cov,
  regularization = 'elastic-net',
  transpose = F,
  lambda1 = lambda1, lambda2 = lambda2,
  1ambda3 = 0,
  niter_inner_mtplyr = 1,
  maxit = 50,
  tolerance = 1e-4,
  learning_rate = 1e-3
) } )
iter_vals <- map_dbl(MNlogistic$coefficientshist, ~</pre>
                 objective(matrix(.x,
                            nrow = ncol(data$X_train)),
                       data$X_train, data$Y_train, data$offset,
                       lambda, alpha, 20))
iter_vals_tol <- map_dbl(MNlogistic_tol$coefficientshist, ~</pre>
                   objective(matrix(.x,
                               nrow = ncol(data$X train)),
                          data$X_train, data$Y_train, data$offset,
                          lambda, alpha, 20))
iter_valsExp <- map_dbl(MNlogisticExp$coefficientshist, ~</pre>
                  objective(matrix(.x,
                              nrow = ncol(data$X_train)),
                         data$X train, data$Y train, data$offset,
```

```
lambda, alpha, 20))
iter_valsAcc <- map_dbl(MNlogisticAcc$coefficientshist, ~</pre>
                  objective(matrix(.x,
                              nrow = ncol(data$X train)),
                         data$X_train, data$Y_train, data$offset,
                         lambda, alpha, 20))
iter_valsSAHRA <- map_dbl(MNlogisticSAHRA$coefficientshist, ~</pre>
                  objective(matrix(.x,
                              nrow = ncol(data$X_train)),
                         data$X_train, data$Y_train, data$offset,
                         lambda, alpha, 20))
# MNlogistic$coefficients
# MNlogisticExp$coefficients
  if (i == 1) iter sim <- tibble()</pre>
iter_sim <- tibble(obj_step = iter_vals,</pre>
            iter = 1:length(iter_vals),
             sim = i,
             time = time[1],
            algorithm = "Original implementation\n(tol = 1e-4)") %>%
  bind_rows(tibble(obj_step = iter_vals_tol,
              iter = 1:length(iter vals tol),
              sim = i,
              time = time_tol[1],
              algorithm = "Original implementation \n(tol = 1e-5)"),
         tibble(obj step = iter valsExp,
              iter = 1:length(iter_valsExp),
              sim = i,
              time = timeExp[1],
              algorithm = "MNlogisticExp \n(Adj. param)"),
         tibble(obj_step = iter_valsAcc,
              iter = 1:length(iter_valsAcc),
              sim = i,
              time = timeAcc[1],
              algorithm = "Acc. MNlogisticExp"),
         tibble(obj_step = iter_valsSAHRA,
              iter = 1:length(iter_valsSAHRA),
              sim = i,
              time = timeSAHRA[1],
              algorithm = "SAHRA")) %>%
  bind rows(iter sim)
saveRDS(iter_sim, here::here( "notes_jmr", "data", "opt-algorithms.rds"))
```

#> Warning: Removed 4 rows containing non-finite outside the scale range
#> (`stat_summary()`).
#> Removed 4 rows containing non-finite outside the scale range
#> (`stat_summary()`).



```
iter_sim %>%
   group_by(sim, algorithm) %>%
   summarise(time = first(time)) %>%
ggplot(aes(x = algorithm, y = time)) +
   geom_boxplot() +
   labs(y = "Time",
        x = "Algorithm")
```



Notes:

- Inner loop iterations do not appear to increase the number of epochs proportionally, suggesting that it may reduce computational time. The inner loop iterations set to 2n appear to perform effectively, reducing computational time to 1/3.
 - As the value of p increases, it seems that the algorithm fails to reach the minimum.
 - The situation becomes problematic when p >> n because the initial epoch is below the tolerance level and far from the optimal position. To address this issue, we can lower the tolerance; however, this increases the number of steps required. By reducing the tolerance, we can observe that it becomes necessary to achieve reasonable coefficients in this context.
- **Tolerance** of 1e-4 in high-dimensional settings is not enough to reach optimal levels.
 - Maybe, we can reduce the number of iterations as we increase the number of epochs.
 - Under similar tolerance, an smaller tolerance seems to be better.
- **Learning rate**. The increase in learning rate from 1e-4 to 1e-3 reduces computational time by half. We should consider better learning rates. A smaller learning rate generates NaNs in the Frobenius norm.